

Quick Strokes

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WINTER, 1982

Seventh West Coast Computer Faire may hear a paper on Dvorak keying

An abstract for a paper on Dvorak keying was accepted, in November, 1981, for consideration by Computer Faire, of 333 Swett Road, Woodside, CA 94062. The authors are Waldo T. Boyd, professional writer, of Geyserville, California, and Don Fitchhorn, computer analyst for the Tandy Corporation, of Fort Worth, Texas.

The dates for the Seventh West Coast Computer Faire are March 19 to 21, 1982. The two sites are the San Francisco Civic Auditorium and Brooks Hall.

Quick Strokes thinks chances are good for an oral presentation at the Faire and publication in its proceedings. Readers are advised to watch the electronics trade press and the West Coast mass media for the Faire program, or to query the sponsors.

New addresses for the Dvorak International Federation

Salem, Oregon, is still the headquarters city for the Dvorak International Federation. Mail addressed to DIF in care of Steve Anderson, attorney and past president of the federation, will be forwarded to the corporation secretary, Barbara Blackburn, at her home, 890 Vista Ave. SE, Salem, OR 97302, who holds over.

Virginia deGanahl Russell, 11 Pearl St., Brandon, VT 05733, has moved up from the vice-presidency to the presidency of DIF, as of Oct. 15, 1981.

"The Dvorak movement has gathered an impressive momentum," says President Russell. "As the applications of the newer and better keyboard increase in scale and number, the need for a coordinating federation becomes more and more evident.

"Much credit for the framework that we now have goes to the dedicated and effective work of previous presidents, Helen Baldwin, Thurman Clark, and Steve Anderson, who resigned for compelling reasons of a personal nature.

"Dues and contributions may be mailed to either Barbara or me. DIF activities will be reported in Quick Strokes, Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691, and paid-up DIF members may expect to receive it quarterly."

Displaywriter is available with IBM Dvorak variant arrangement

The keyboard module for the IBM Displaywriter plugs in through a cable to the display module. There is no extra charge for IBM's variant of the Dvorak arrangement on the keyboard module. The Displaywriter becomes a dual-arrangement device when an extra keyboard module with the other arrangement is on hand. The price of the second keyboard is quoted as \$320.

The Displaywriter is versatile. It is a word-processing unit which may be adapted, with some add-on modules, to serve as a communication terminal. Thus, it is a work station for either the pretrained word-processing operator or the middle-management executive.

These executives welcome the incoming messages, which can be read and erased or, instead, turned into typescript or held in storage. Even those executives who still boast of the seventy words a minute that they made at a conventional keyboard, in high school, have reservations about doing much input of their own. Now that their time is so valuable, the realization sinks in that the conventional arrangement is a time waster.

Golden Gate Word Processing Xchange Magazine and Bulletin report on the Dvorak movement

Hundreds of managers and supervisors in information processing around the San Francisco Bay area and elsewhere have learned a little more about simplified keyboard input in recent months. Their organization is the Golden Gate Word Processing Xchange — note the spelling.

The GGWPX Bulletin for November, 1981, carries a story on the First International Word Productivity Contests — the same set of contests, managed by Ronald Watson, that Quick Strokes has also announced. The GGWPX Bulletin for September, 1981, gives the Quick Strokes address and the subscription price, and says, "Reportedly, the retraining is not nearly as difficult as it sounds."

GGWPX is one of several thriving associations that are not affiliated with the International Word-Information Processing Association, of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania. The GGWPX periodicals, their News Bulletin and News Magazine, exchange with many magazines and bulletins in the field. The Xchange has plans for providing a national circulation for its own.

Address, GGWPX, 1255 Post St., Suite 625, San Francisco, CA 94109.

More from Lenora, the two-keyboard operator

"I have a part-time job with the statistical consulting service at Colorado State University as a student data analyst. My job requires me to do a lot of key punching on computer cards. It still amazes me how easy it is to transfer back and forth between the qwerty keypunch and my typewriter.

"As secretary of my square dance club, I do a lot of typing, and my speed seems to improve by the minute! For some reason, my qwerty speed has improved considerably, too. I was typing at 30 words per minute on qwerty when I got my typewriter and now I'm probably 60 wpm.

"If I have to use both, I might as well be as efficient as the system lets me be."

Errata

If you file Quick Strokes, or, before you pass the September, 1981, issue on, please correct the Whole Number to read 30. Let the word FALL, in the same line, stand, even though that issue follows SPRING, 1981, Whole Number 29.

Please, in the same issue, page 2, column 1, change the name of the contented user-operator to GLENN F. Baker.

Anderson appoints director board for Dvorak International Federation

The following members of the Dvorak International Federation were appointed to its board of directors in September, 1981, by Steve Anderson, attorney, of Salem, Oregon, who at that time was the DIF president. The nominating committee was chaired by Thurman Clark, of Portland, Oregon. All directors have signified their willingness to serve.

Thomas S. Booz, of Plantation, Florida; Lloyd M. Burstein, Vienna, VA; Mary K. Crumbaker, Ph. D., Eugene, OR; Philip Davis, Sacramento and West Sacramento, CA; Alma (Sue) George, Portland, OR; Albert C. Kolb, Seaside, CA; William J. Smith, Steilacoom, WA; Ronald Watson, North Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Pretrained Dvorak-skilled operators — yes! they are available

From William J. Smith, typing teacher at Clover Park High School, Lakewood Center, Washington, we have the following list of Dvorak-skilled keyboard operators who have successfully completed the course under Smith. The home town for all of them is Tacoma, Washington.

Mike Harris, Paul Carleton, Tracy Hansel, Rose Quiroz, Roger Legg, Jeff Rossi, Jeff Harmier, Ralph Hudson, Steve Davis, Tom Sifford, Frankey Minden, Edd Esquilin, David Gehringer. One more, Kim Cook, has apparently moved since the list was compiled.

Among so many, surely some would take a job if it were offered. Some might migrate as far as Oregon if the pasture there is greener. Addresses can be secured from Smith, home telephone 206-588-6341, or Phil Davis, 916-446-3377. Confidentiality is assured.

Program for converting the Apple II is in stock in Tacoma, Washington

By WILLIAM J. SMITH

David Gehringer, 6218 85th St. SW, Tacoma, WA 98499, telephone 206-584-7585, has developed a computer program for converting the Apple II keyboard to the Dvorak Simplified one either for the classic DSK or the ASK keyboard with use of very little available RAM.

He is now graduated from my high school and is attending college at Washington State University majoring in math and engineering and maintaining a 3.2 grade average.

The diskette costs \$20, and the informational sheet costs \$15.

A film industry application of Dvorak keying

"Please start airmailing QS, and please airmail as many back issues as you can.

"This is typed on IBM Savin WP (converted by a tech to Dvorak). Unfortunately he has disappeared and if anything goes wrong we'll be in trouble.

"We're interested in cheap conversions of cheap computers to Dvorak."

Victor Kay
Victor Kay Film Productions
Bondi Beach, NSW, Australia

American Management Associations investigate word processing

The American Management Associations, 135 West 50th St., New York 10020, has scheduled two conferences under the title of "Investigating Word Processing," one in Los Angeles, at the Amfac Hotel, from Feb. 17 to 19, and another at its own headquarters on March 22 to 24, 1982.

Points in their outline are "standards for measuring productivity", "the state of the art", and "reorganizing personnel".

Calendar item

Productivity in Information Systems: Strategic Use of Tools and Techniques, January 12-14, 1982, Atlanta, Georgia. This meeting for information systems managers and developers will deal with the problems of increasing demands for productivity, and managerial actions and technologies that can increase significantly productivity in all types of organizations. Contact U.S. Professional Development Institute, 12611 Davan Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904. Telephone: (301) 622-0066.

IBM personal computer is conventionally arranged

A study by the IBM research center at San Jose, California, which has not come to hand at Quick Strokes is reported to conclude that for nonoperator beginners the conventional arrangement is recommendable.

There is, indeed, some substance to this view. It is evident from experience in both personal and vocational applications, that the alternative, the Dvorak arrangement and its close variants, is very considerably easier for an experienced operator to learn than for a non operator beginner.

Before a beginner can embark on the high-speed drills that lead to competence and on to mastery of the character-finding skill he must first gain control of the key-finding technique. The experienced operator has the positions of the keys well in hand, literally, and control over the much easier Dvorak arrangement is readily attained — not equally readily, of course, by all operators.

It may be true, as the investigators seem to have assumed, that the typical user of a personal computer can take his own time about the input and might as well circle and swoop as do it rapidly and well.

On the other hand, the IBM personal computer has program-loadable storage, and we can count on it that some bright student will soon announce that there is a way to program this conventional computer for Dvorak input.

Radio Shack variant is recognizable Dvorak

"PATCH SCRIPSIT A=DDFA F=D7 C=8," is the way the directions read for applying a Dvoraklike arrangement to the TRS-80 computer.

If your local Radio Shack Computer Center professes ignorance, you may refer them to Radio Shack Customer Services No. 7879, in Fort Worth, Texas.

"The single sheet that Customer Services supplies shows six more equations and diagrams for a 45-printing-key alphanumeric keyboard and a numeric cluster.

Oddities in the diagram: apostrophe at location C11, so that the word *isn't*, for instance, involves four successive right-hand strokes, one of which is an outboard reach for the one (little) finger. Semicolon-colon at B01 (left end, front rank), where apostrophe would provide better rhythm. Hyphen in the digit row, as if its only purpose were to serve as a minus sign.

Dick Land script from SIGSOC conference will be in stock at Association for Computing Machinery

Dick Land on "Keyboard Entry — Can it be Simplified?" (see Quick Strokes 29, Spring, 1981, for an abstract) will be available from the Association for Computing Machinery, 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York 10036. It is to appear in the ACM SIGSOC Bulletin with the rest of the proceedings of the May, 1981, Joint Conference on Easier and more Productive Use of Computing Systems which took place at Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Land, whose affiliation is the Harvard University Engineering Science Laboratory, steals honorably from some of the same sources that Quick Strokes likes to raid — L. J. West, Yamada-Hisao, Dvorak, Dealey, Merrick, and Ford, U. S. Navy, and Hiraga, Ono, and Yamada. He cites nineteen references, however, with particular emphasis on F. M. Fitts, "The Information Capacity of the Human Motor System in Controlling the Amplitude of Movement," *Journal of Experimental Psychology* 47:6, 1954.

The real meaning of the title of the paper is, "Will the transition to the simpler style of keying overtake the growth of the keyboard labor market?" The transition is under way, and it is not any deficiency in available equipment nor in opportunities for training that is governing the pace.

In a note to Quick Strokes, Land urges wide publicity on the imminence of an American National alternative keyboard arrangement standard.

Brief workouts on Maltron

Through the kindness of P.C.D. Maltron, Ltd., of Farnborough, Hants, England, and of Ronald Watson, of North Sydney, Australia, several keyboard connoisseurs and connoisseuses in the United States and Australia, have got their fingers into a Maltron keyboard.

The keyboard that Watson carries with him is a standard Maltron moulding fitted with the normal Cherry keys but without internal electronics. The demonstration unit has all the feel of the complete keyboard and gives a clearer idea of operation than does a photograph or diagram.

I wrote "into" because the keys are arranged in a shallow trough. The nearest rank of keys is not the "bottom" row, because the middle row is lower. The reach over the ragged front rank puts the hands in a position resembling that applied by Cortez Peters, a fast operator on the conventional arrangement. The first phalanges are nearly in line with the back of the hand, and it is the second set of knuckles that takes the flexion.

In Sacramento, California, USA, Harriet Davis, Brad Lessley, and Phil Davis all worked out briefly on the Maltron mockup. Those few minutes do not, of course, permit an evaluation. Neither does the total experience of all Maltron operators as reported.

Exidy Sorcerer computer with unconventional keyboard shown at California Writers' Club conference

Besides tables where authors could meet agents, the exhibit hall at Mills College, Oakland, California, also had exhibit tables around the walls, where word-processing equipment was on view. The conference, under the auspices of the California Writers' Club, was held in June, 1981, with Alex Haley as the featured speaker.

Attendants at the D & G Computer Systems exhibit were in trouble — their Exidy Sorcerer computer was on hand, but its shepherd, Bill Hooper, was on an errand in Oregon. Hooper had rearranged the keybuttons on the keyboard module into a pretty close variant of the classic Dvorak arrangement. The computer would respond to the signals, all right, but the untrained D & G personnel were having a hard time finding the right key to depress.

Hooper says that the Atari computer can be converted to a more rational arrangement in the same way. The electronics of both makes are in the keyboard, and so, there is no point in marketing the keyboard separately from its cathode ray tube display assembly.

On another display table was the IBM Selectric II with ASK arrangement which Waldo T. Boyd uses for all his writing, together with copies of his "Space Age Typewriter Keyboard Awaits Adoption" in pamphlet form. It is a reprint of an article that ran in many daily newspapers in 1966. At his table also was a Tandy TRS-80 computer, programmed for word processing but with a conventional keyboard.

The D & G address is 4156 Manzanita Ave., Suite 200, Carmichael, California 95608.

USED ELECTRIC TYPEWRITERS for sale — DVORAK. One SCM 120, primer type, with case, \$125; SCM 250, pica, with case, \$200; IBM Model D, pica, \$350. Sturdy typing stand \$35. SCM typewriter case \$10. Marie Parkinson, (408) 732-0985, 664 Gail Avenue, B-22, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

FOR RENT — Videotape, "Typewriters: Dvorak Made a Better One", narrated by Albert C. Kolb, Carmel (California) Middle School, time 14 minutes and 19 seconds. Narrator and secretary demonstrate an interesting and innovative alternative to the standard keyboard. Motivates student interest in the typewriter and in developing skills. Sony KCS 20. Per week. \$10. Shipping weight 1 lb., 12 ozs. Quick Strokes, Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.



**MODERN KEYBOARDS
by KOLB**

SCM - ASKs

2500s Electra Automatics
Classic 12s
1770 Juarez St., Seaside, CA 93955
(408) 394-4284

KEEP YOUR QUICK STROKES COMING! Subs for Vol. IX, through March, 1982, are due. Single sub still \$5; double sub, to two addresses or both to one address, \$7.50; quintuple sub, to various addresses, \$10; bundle of 20, to one address, \$28. In California, please add 6% tax.

Chatsworth firm will rearrange keyboards

California Retyping Co., Inc., of 9129 Lurline Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311, has the skill and equipment to convert IBM type bar typewriters to either of the favored Dvorak variant arrangements — DSK, with the digits arranged with the low ones central, or ASK, with a conventional digit row. The manager is Jim Henderson.

Nothing extra for Dvorak on the Selectric III

The current IBM Selectric typewriters are all of the III model. Previous models have been discontinued. Elements for earlier models do not fit the III.

The IBM variant of the alternative arrangement is designated as Dvorak in the salesman's catalog. There is no extra charge for it, but the customer must specify it. The salesman is not likely to ask you whether you want the alternative arrangement or the conventional one.

Selectric III Dvorak corresponds to IBM Displaywriter Dvorak and not exactly to the latest and probably final draft for an American National alternative keyboard arrangement standard.

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